

Application No.: 10/814,742
Amendment dated: 04/25/06
Reply to Office Action mailed: 02/21/06

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancel) A lift-up, ventilated gate for use with a garage door comprising a plurality of hingedly joined sections, each of the sections having a first and a second end and being supported in a garage door support at their first and second ends for movement in the garage door support to move the garage door between an open and a closed position, the garage door being moveable in the garage door support between an open and a closed position, the ventilated gate having a top and a bottom, a frame, a ventilation section in the frame, an inside and an outside, a first end and a second end and being hingedly connectable to a driveway surface across a major portion of a width of the garage door opening and having a cable connection near the top of the ventilated gate on each of its first and second ends adapted for connection to a cable to enable the cable to pull the ventilated gate from a flat position on the driveway surface to an upright position so that the top of the ventilated gate engages a bottom of the garage door when the garage door is partially closed.

2. (currently amended) The [ventilated gate] system of [claim 1] claim 7 wherein the ventilated gate is an automatic ventilated gate.

3. (cancel) The ventilated gate of claim 1 wherein the ventilated gate includes at least one receptacle near its top positioned for mating engagement with at least one pin on the garage door and extending downwardly below the bottom of the garage door so that the at least one pin engages the at least one receptacle when the ventilated gate is in an upright position and in engagement with the bottom of the garage door.

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4. (cancel) The ventilated gate of claim 1 wherein the ventilated gate includes at least one pin extending above its top and positioned for mating engagement with at least one receptacle on the garage door so that the at least one pin engages the at least one receptacle when the ventilated gate is in an upright position and in engagement with the bottom of the garage door.

5. (cancel) The ventilated gate of claim 1 wherein the ventilated gate is constructed of at least one of wood, metal, plastic and combinations thereof.

6. (cancel) The ventilated gate of claim 1 wherein the ventilated gate comprises a plurality of spaced-apart slats, each having a first and a second end and having positioned between each pair of the spaced-apart slats at their ends a block spacer with the block spacers being maintained in position so that the block spacers and end sections of the slats form the top and the bottom portions of the frame with the end slats forming the end portions of the frame.

7. (currently amended) [An automatic] A lift-up, ventilated gate and a system for opening and closing the ventilated gate for use with a garage door [comprising a plurality of hingedly joined sections, each of the sections having a first and a second end and being supported in a garage door support at their first and second ends for movement in the garage door support to move the garage door between an open and a closed position], the system comprising:

a) a garage door comprising a plurality of hingedly joined sections, each of the sections having a first end, a second end, a width and being supported in a garage door support to move the garage door between an open and a closed position;

[a)] b) a ventilated gate having a top and a bottom, a frame, a ventilation section in the frame, an inside and an outside, a first end and a second

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end, being hingedly connectable to a driveway surface across a major portion of [a] the width of the garage door and having a cable connection near the top of the ventilated gate on each of its first and second ends; and,

[b)] c) a first and a second cable and pulley system adapted for support on at least one of the garage door supports and garage surfaces and connected *near the* top of the ventilated gate to the first and second ends of the ventilated gate respectively and to a first and a second side respectively of a top of the garage door so that when the garage door is lowered toward its closed position the cable and pulley systems raise the ventilated gate to an upright position so that the top of the ventilated gate engages a bottom of the garage door.

8. (original) The ventilated gate system of claim 7 wherein the garage door is moved in the garage door support by a garage door opener.

9. (currently amended) The ventilated gate system of [claim 6] claim 7 wherein the ventilated gate is constructed of at least one of wood, metal, plastic and combinations thereof.

10. (original) The ventilated gate system of claim 7 wherein the ventilated gate includes at least one receptacle near its top positioned for mating engagement with at least one pin on the garage door and extending downwardly below the bottom of the garage door so that the at least one pin engages the at least one receptacle when the ventilated gate is in an upright position and in engagement with the bottom of the garage door.

11. (original) The ventilated gate of claim 7 wherein the ventilated gate includes at least one pin extending above its top and positioned for mating engagement

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with at least one receptacle on the bottom of the garage door so that the at least one pin engages the at least one receptacle when the ventilated gate is in an upright position and in engagement with the bottom of the garage door.

12. (original) The system of claim 7 wherein each cable and pulley system comprises a first pulley positioned to engage a cable extending from a connection of the cable to the top of the garage door partially around the first pulley, partially around a second pulley positioned near a curve in the garage door support from a vertical to a horizontal portion and partially around a third pulley positioned near a garage wall supporting the garage door support above the bottom of the garage door in its closed position in engagement with the top of the ventilated gate and partially around a fourth pulley positioned on an upper portion of an inside end of the ventilated gate and then to a fixed connection so that when the garage door is closed the ventilated gate is raised into its upright position to engage the bottom of the garage door.

13. (original) The system of claim 12 wherein the second pulley is supported by the garage door support.

14. (original) The system of claim 7 wherein the system includes a garage door opener and wherein the garage door opener includes a first stopped position with the bottom of the garage door in engagement with the top of the ventilated gate and a second stopped position with the bottom of the garage door in engagement with a floor of the garage.

15. (original) The system of claim 7 wherein the system includes a switch positioned on the ventilated gate in electrical contact with a garage door opener position

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selector and operative to stop the garage door in a first stopped position when the ventilated gate is in its upright position.

16. (original) The system of claim 7 wherein each cable and pulley system comprises a first pulley positioned to engage a cable extending from a connection of the cable to the top of the garage door partially around the first pulley, partially around a second pulley positioned near a curve in the garage door support from a vertical to a horizontal portion and partially around a third pulley positioned above the bottom of the garage door in its closed position in engagement with the top of the ventilated gate and to a fixed connection to an upper portion of an inside end of the ventilated gate so that when the garage door is closed the ventilated gate is raised into its upright position to engage the bottom of the garage door.

17. (original) The ventilated gate of claim 7 wherein the ventilated gate comprises a plurality of spaced-apart slats, each having a first and a second end and having positioned between each pair of the spaced-apart slats at their ends a block spacer with the block spacers being maintained in position so that the block spacers and end sections of the slats form the top and the bottom portions of the frame with the end slats forming the end portions of the frame.

18. (original) A ventilated gate for use with an overhead garage door comprising a plurality of hingedly joined sections, each of the sections having a first and a second end and being supported in a garage door support at their first and second ends for movement in the garage door support to move the garage door between an open and a closed position, the ventilated gate having a top and a bottom, a frame, a ventilation section in the frame, an inside and an outside, a first and a second end and being hingedly connectable to a driveway surface across a major portion of a width of the garage door opening and being manually raisable to an upright position so that the top of the

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ventilated gate is positioned for engagement with a bottom of the garage door when the garage door is in a partially closed position.

19. (cancel) The system of claim 7 wherein the system includes a garage door opener and wherein the garage door opener includes a first stopped position with the bottom of the garage door in engagement with the top of the ventilated gate and a second stopped position with the bottom of the garage door in engagement with a floor of the garage.

20. (cancel) The system of claim 7 wherein the system includes a switch positioned on the ventilated gate in electrical contact with a garage door opener position selector and operative to stop the garage door in a first stopped position when the ventilated gate is in its upright position.

21. (currently amended) The ventilated gate system of [claim 17] claim 18 wherein the ventilated gate is constructed of wood, metal, plastic and combination thereof.

22. (currently amended) The ventilated gate of [claim 17] claim 18 wherein the ventilated gate comprises a plurality of spaced-apart slats, each having a first and a second end and having positioned between each pair of the spaced-apart slats at their ends a block spacer with the block spacers being maintained in position so that the block spacers and end sections of the slats form the top and the bottom portions of the frame with the end slats forming the end portions of the frame.

23. (currently amended) The ventilated gate of [claim 17] claim 18 wherein the ventilated gate includes a ferromagnetic metal plate positioned near the top of the ventilated gate on each of the first and the second ends of the ventilated gate on its

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inside so that they may engage [with the magnetic elements of an] a magnetic latch positioned to hold the ventilated gate in the proper raised position.